



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Dear Facilitator,

Hope your New Year is off to a happy and healthy start! 2006 was a great year for PLT/WILD/WET, take a look at what educators said about their workshop experiences:

- *"The activity ideas found in the Project WILD book are a great tool for reaching out to kids about important objectives and issue. I found them to be of GREAT value for future projects."*
- The greatest value of the workshop was *"The demonstrations of curriculum and activities! Visually and kinesthetically the run thoughts helped me grasp the activities faster and more efficiently than just readying them and figuring them out for myself!"*
- *"The workshop presented me with many options to use when I teach. I have a boat load of information ready to use in different environments."*
- The greatest value of the workshop was *"The creativity that was brought through the facilitators. There were many activities to open our minds."*
- *"The greatest value I will pass on is the understanding of nature and how different systems of nature work."*

Great work facilitators, can't wait to see what 2007 brings!

OFFICE MATTERS

1. New Training Incentives

Free Workshop Enrollment Offer: We are now offering one free enrollment to an individual who acts as a workshop host and coordinates a workshop through the state office for local educators. Jackie will explain the incentive and connect the person with the nearest available facilitator. This has already proven to encourage local workshops to be scheduled and the clients have taken initiative to promote the workshop within their school district. This has also given facilitators new opportunities to connect with local schools. Please help promote this new opportunity in your local area. Click here to see the information on [How to Plan a Workshop](#) our Web site.

Green and Healthy School Free Enrollment- **Spread the Green News!!** We want to reward schools for pledging to become a Green and Healthy School by offering one free PLT/WILD/WET training registration to a participant at the pledging school. The [Green and Healthy School program](#) aims to increase the students' knowledge of the environment and Wisconsin's natural resources by encouraging schools to use their building and grounds as a learning tool for environmental and health education. Schools will be able to fulfill several of the Green and Healthy School requirements by using PLT/WILD/WET material. We appreciate your help in spreading the word about this opportunity. For more information, please contact Jackie Hanzal (jacqueline.hanzal@wisconsin.gov) at 608-264-6028.

2. **Facilitator survey coming in the mail**-Please fill out and return the survey in the self-addressed return envelope to help us update our records on your history with the program and your interests in further training.
3. **New PLT guides for 2007** have some slight improvements over the "new" 2006 guide with more of the new connections in them (literature, differentiated instruction, technology, etc.) We will be using the 2006 versions until they are depleted and then will introduce the 2007 guides.
4. **PLT Early Childhood Guide Update**-Thanks to your efforts and the popularity of the PLT Early Childhood program since it's publication in 2003, our stock of early childhood guides has been dwindling. We are currently in the process of updating and reprinting the guide along with the movement and music CDs. Because of this, we will not be able to fill any request for future PLT Early Childhood workshops until the reprinting is complete. In the mean time, please contact Chris Tall with any critical corrections you think need to be made to this popular set of materials by February 28. We will keep you updated on our progress.

PLT Early Childhood Facilitators – The T-Net Training Network and Event Calendar Web site (www.t-net.org) is an excellent resource for early childhood teaching professionals looking for PLT Early Childhood workshops as well as other Registry accredited training opportunities. As soon as our guide reprinting is complete, we will be posting future PLT Early Childhood Workshops on this site. For more information about The Registry go to: www.the-registry.org.

5. **New Facilitator Training/Mentoring**- We are continuing to take applications, however, at this time we are not equipped to take on new facilitators. We are looking at a new mentoring program with more rigorous evaluation techniques and stepped procedures that are similar to what we have done in the past. We will contact interested persons as soon as we are ready to roll out the program. At a minimum, we require that the person attend a workshop as a participant first, and use the materials themselves for a period of time to become familiar with the program(s). If you are interested in mentoring someone or are in the process of mentoring a new facilitator, please contact Janet Hutchens.
6. **E-mail address change**-The DNR recently underwent a change in our e-mail system and **our address has been changed to DNRPltwildwet@wi.gov**. We are told that the old address will work for some time, but please begin using the new one to reach us and in promoting the programs.
7. **Welcome new facilitators-**
Eric Volden at Bethel Horizons. Eric has been delivering workshops since 1983. He is a Wisconsin native; however, he worked in Nebraska for twenty four years. While living in Nebraska, he worked with Environmental Education at several different nature centers. Eric is a certified facilitator for Project WILD, Project WET and Project Learning Tree and has already held his first Wisconsin workshop for students at UW Platteville. We're very excited to welcome him to our dedicated team of facilitators.

We'd also like to welcome back **Sandra Hudson** to Wisconsin. Sandra is working at the Great River Road Visitor and Learning Center in Prescott, Wisconsin and will be holding Project Learning Tree and Project WILD/Aquatic workshops. Here contact information is 715-262-0104, slhudson@freedomparkwi.org.

8. **Photos Wanted.** We are in the process of revamping our PLT/WILD/WET brochure and are looking for some pictures of either teachers/educators or kids participating in PLT, WILD, or WET activities. If you have any digital pictures you are willing to share, please e-mail them along with the location of where the pictures were taken by January 29th.
9. **2007 Facilitator Conference.**- Because of the school year running late into June, we are looking at holding this year's facilitator workshop the week of August 14 or 21. Please let us know through our new e-mail address by January 31 what your date preferences would be, one or two day preference, and ideas for a central location.
10. **Facilitator Niche**-Don't forget to check out the [Facilitator Niche](#) resource page to get workshop forms and popular handouts, view past newsletters, get workshop fee information and more. Your suggestions are welcome to improve this page to give you the tools you need for hosting workshops.
11. **What is Flying WILD?**-Flying WILD is a national bird education program similar in format to Project WILD, however separate, specifically related to birds, and targeted for middle school-aged students. The program is run nationally by the parent organization of Project WILD, the Council for Environmental Education (CEE), and like its sibling program, is only available through workshops. View the [Flying WILD flyer](#) to learn about the initial training workshop in March.

NEWS

[Project Learning Tree Receives Global Environmental Education Award](#)- Project Learning Tree received the North American Association for Environmental Education's (NAAEE) Award for Outstanding Service by an Organization at the Global Level.

SPRING WORKSHOP CALENDAR

Please help us promote the **open enrollment** professional training opportunities through your teacher networks. Remember to promote our workshop listing online at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/eeek/teacher/calendar.htm>.

- Learning Tree, WILD/Aquatic WILD, Fallen Timbers Environmental Center – January, 2007. Facilitator: Libby Dorn. Restricted Enrollment.
- WILD/Aquatic WILD, Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary – February 3, 17, 2007. Facilitator: Kim Diedrich. Restricted Enrollment.
- Learning Tree and Early Childhood, WILD/Aquatic WILD, WET, **Aldo Leopold Nature Center** – February 16, 17, 2007. Facilitator: Janet Hutchens. Open Enrollment.
- Learning Tree, **Milwaukee Public Museum** – February 24, 2007. Facilitator: Vanessa Torti, Bernie Williams, Dawn Kocaja. Open Enrollment.
- WET, Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers Convention, **Green Bay**- March 24, 2007. Facilitator: Janet Hutchens. Open Enrollment-Registration to convention required.
- Learning Tree, WILD/Aquatic WILD, WET, **Camp Timberlee (East Troy)** – March 28, 29, 2007. Facilitator: Kendra Johncock. Open Enrollment.
- WILD/Aquatic WILD, UW-Osh Kosh – March 30, 2007. Facilitator: Susan Foster. Restricted Enrollment.
- WILD/Aquatic WILD, **Ladysmith** – April 28, 2007. Facilitator: Mark Stensvold. Open Enrollment.
- WILD/Aquatic WILD, WET, **Wehr Nature Center** – May 19, 2007. Facilitator: Howard April. Open Enrollment.
- Early Childhood, **Community Coordinated Childcare (Madison)** – May 2, 2007. Facilitator: Christopher Tall. Open Enrollment.

RESOURCES

- **Tips and Tricks to Improve Workshops-** Natural resource professionals can bring a host of knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm to spice up your workshop and make it relevant to local environmental issues. Please consider contacting the following professionals to bring local issues to the adults you are training: basin educators, DNR Foresters, Wildlife Managers, or Water resource staff. Remember that many of them may have busy field seasons you will want to avoid and some may not be available to do outreach but may have referral suggestions. Search for DNR staff by subject and location: <http://dnr.wi.gov/staffdir/SearchSubj.asp>. Basin educators: <http://basineducation.uwex.edu/>.

For those of you in the Rock River Basin, Suzanne Wade, Basin Educator for DNR and UW Extension, is willing to help with WET workshops. Her contact information for facilitators in that area is Suzanne Wade, Rock River Basin Educator for Natural Resources, 920/674-8972, suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu.

- **Exciting new WI Forest Connections with Project Learning Tree!** -The Northern Forest Digital Herbarium, produced under 2003-2004 WEEB Grant with Kathleen Morgen, long-time PLT Advisory Committee Member, as a project director. The herbarium is a CD that contains scanned images of 200 "...robust replicas of herbarium specimens that can be used by aspiring botanists of all ages." This herbarium is designed to support forestry education and treaty rights education. If you're looking for a copy to use or share with others, check with the following targeted recipients: Schools of CESA 12 and the Materials Center, Tribal/Public schools of the Ojibwe Nation, [Northern Waters Library System](#), [Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center](#).
- **Lake Tides** -The newsletter for people interested in Wisconsin Lakes. A quarterly publication focusing on issues facing Wisconsin's lakes and communities.
- **PLT's Earth & Sky Radio Show** -Earth & Sky has a brand new website and is currently redesigning the "Teachers" section. Visit the [PLT Earth and Sky Web site](#) for a listing of PLT guides and activities with the correlated Earth & Sky Radio Shows.
- **EEK Adds Video for Kids-** EEK is now streaming educational video segments online for kids! Fifteen short video segments from the Into the Outdoors TV show for kids will soon be available through existing EEK! stories to make an even greater technology connection. These short segments are perfect for kids to watch on the Web. Check out the following segments: [radio-track timber wolves](#), [researcher tags red-backed salamanders](#), [timber rattlesnakes](#), [lake sturgeon](#) by clicking the VIDEO link off of the stories.

Best Regards,

The PLT/WILD/WET Team



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